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MONTANA FARM LABOR REPORT 1967

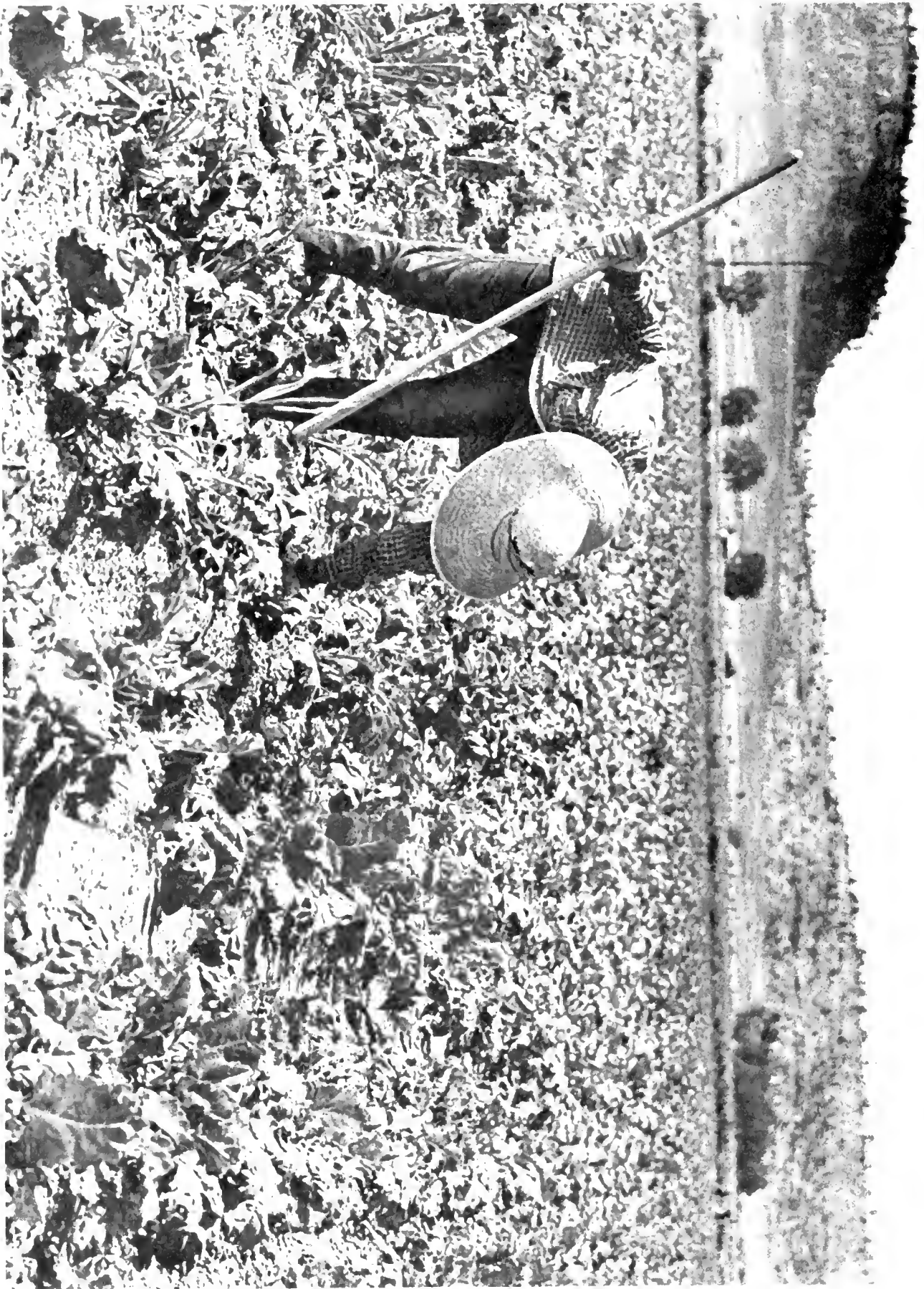


KALISPELL LOCAL OFFICE AREA

MONTANA
STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

affiliated with
UNITED STATES
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE





BILLINGS LOCAL OFFICE AREA

Good beet labor
Courtesy - Billings Gazette

PREPARED BY FARM LABOR SECTION
OF THE MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

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A DIVISION OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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The Forgotten Man

The modern-day sheep herder, is as his counterpart of days gone by a misunderstood and forgotten man; living and working under much the same conditions they have for many decades. I use the term modern with tongue in cheek, as about the only additional convenience he has over the herder of the past is a horse and saddle. In some cases even that is furnished with reluctance.

He must be as his job twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. When he takes a few days off, after five or six months on the job, it is on his own time. No paid vacation for him.

If he is layed off, and in most cases that is without any foretold notice, he can't draw any unemployment insurance as most other workers do. He is supposed to get by as best he can until he is again needed. When he is needed, he is expected to be ready immediately. If he should leave his job without giving notice, he can be prosecuted and in some cases sent to prison.

He is put in charge of stock, at times worth as much as \$50,000 but he is considered to be worth only \$175 or \$200 a month. The law which is supposed to guarantee a minimum wage of \$1.00 an hour for farm and ranch workers doesn't seem to apply to sheepherders. If this be the case, his hourly wage must be a record low in this co-called prosperous land. He puts in 720 hours in each 30 day month.

I have heard rumors of a law which is supposed to state, a herder must be visited at least once every 72 hours. Lucky is the herder that sees his camp tender more than once a week. If he is hurt, or gets sick, he must wait for help, and the help he may need desperately could be a week away. No doubt, if there is such a law and it was enforced, some herders who were found dead in their camp, could have been rescued.

Many people still believe that a sheepherder is an uneducated, stupid fool; who has little more sense than the sheep he tends. Nothing could be further from the truth. To be a good sheepherder certainly takes just as much, and in some cases, a lot more training than in some of the more (so-called) respectable skills or trades.

It takes a very uncommon man, with the instincts and courage of a pioneer to lead such a lonesome and rugged life. Besides looking out for the welfare and survival of himself, two dogs, and his horse, he has in his charge, or care, two to three thousand head of sheep — an animal which has since biblical times, been almost entirely dependent on man for their very existence. He certainly must have an extensive knowledge of and a love for dumb animals.

Not all men who go out with a band of sheep are sheepherders, just as not all men who saw a board or pound a nail are carpenters, but like the would-be carpenters, they are soon found out. It is this character, who spends much of his time on a bar stool retelling his thrilling but fictitious experiences out on the range, that has degraded the real herder.

A real herder doesn't have to tell a far fetched story, for a drink or a handout; as his credit is good when he is in need.

By his natural easygoing and trusting nature, he is preyed upon and used by many an unsavory character, who will go to any

depths to add another dollar to his ill gotten hoard. Don't feel sorry for the herder, as he doesn't expect or want your sympathy. But, feel sorry for the money monger who when he passes on will not be able to take his purse with him. If he could, I am quite sure it will do him no good in hell.

Most herders, although they seldom attend a church, have a deep religious faith that in most cases is known to God alone. He may be a forgotten man in the eyes of man but to God he is a privileged being. It was the sheep herders before all others who were summoned by the angels to present themselves at the birthplace of Christ; God's only begotten son. A rare privilege indeed.

According to the fair labor standards act, as amended in 1966; he is deliberately discriminated against.

I quote "The minimum wage is not required for employees principally engaged in the range production of livestock."

Now this doesn't take into consideration the ability of an employer to pay more as with other workers, but instead leaves him out completely. In all fairness, I don't think any herder would expect to receive \$1.00 an hour for every hour he puts on the job, but by the same token, he should be worth more than the 25c an hour he now receives. It may be the politicians left him out, as it is next to impossible for him to exercise his right as a citizen and vote.

You may ask: Why does any man stay on such a job as this? Well first off, he is usually a man in his fifties or sixties, not a very good candidate for a new job. As a rule, he has put many years in learning his trade and it would be hard for anyone to learn a new trade at this late a date in life. He likes the work he is doing. All

he asks is his fair share of the rewards for a job well done.

There is so much more left to be said for this deserving but forgotten man that I hope a more talented person in the art of writing will take up his pen and write a full story about him.

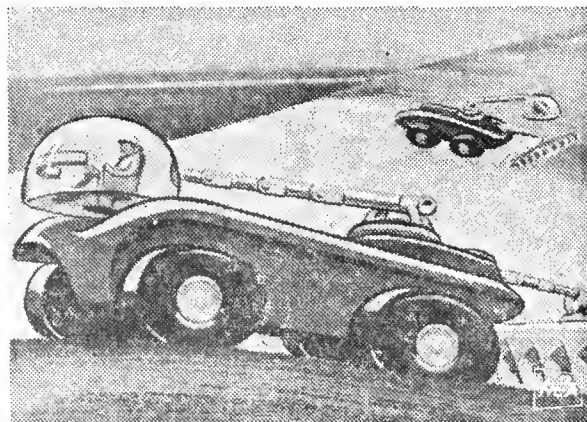
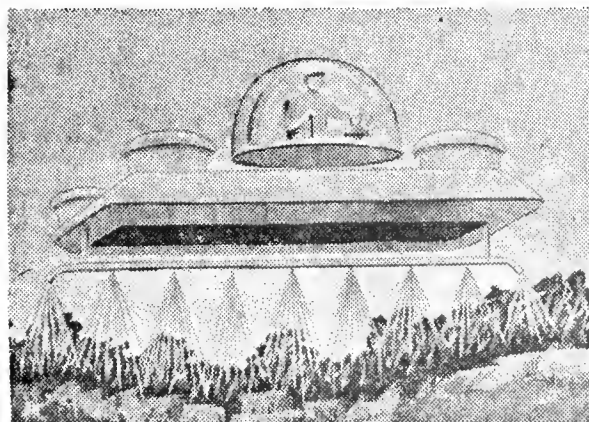
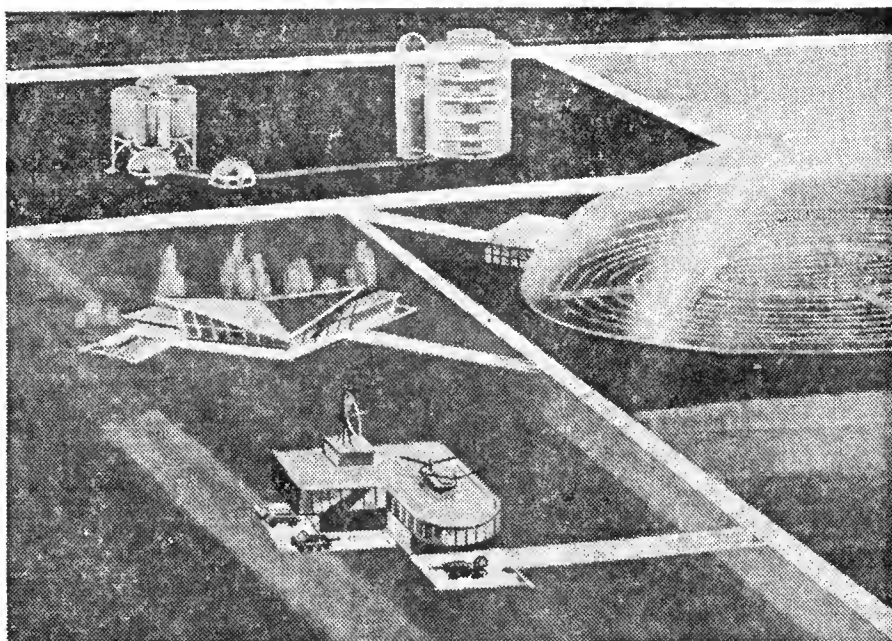
If in this incomplete narrative he has gained a little more respect from his fellow man, and a fair and just reward for his efforts I am thankful.

By a man who is proud to have been called a SHEEPHERDER,
Ralph Morquist
Dillon, Montana



21st Century Futurized Farming

The world is staring starvation in the face, according to some agrarian prophets, and to meet the food needs of a growing world, farming will become increasingly more sophisticated. These Ford Motor Co. drawings, based on consultation with farm experts, give some insight into the farm scene by the turn of the century.



THE BATTLE FOR FOOD by the year 2000 may bring some of the above into common use. Top drawing shows a farm with high-rise cattle barn and a warehouse complex and refinery at left where barn waste is purified and recirculated back to the barn. At right is a huge plastic dome covering 10 acres or more, under which crops are grown in a computer-controlled environment. To the left foreground is a modern farmhouse, and in front of that the control center for directing the work of riderless electronic field equipment. Other possibilities include, lower left, a hovercraft for spraying crops and, lower right, tractors run on four- or six-wheel drive and powered by electric drive, fuel cells or storage batteries. For a look at implement's performance, driver can propel cab to the rear, as on tractor in background.



GLENDIVE LOCAL OFFICE AREA

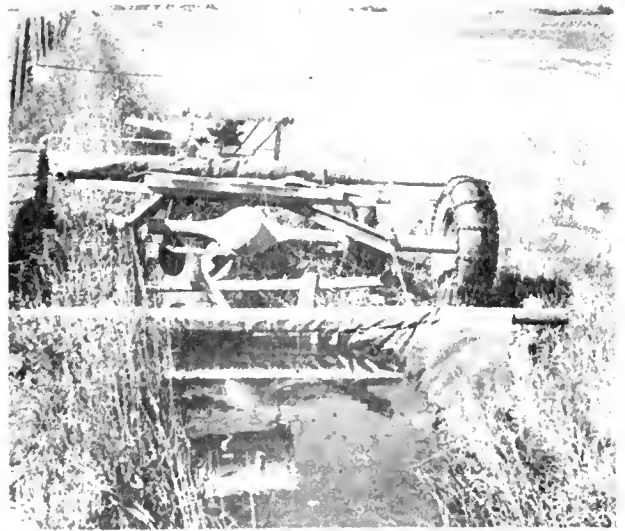
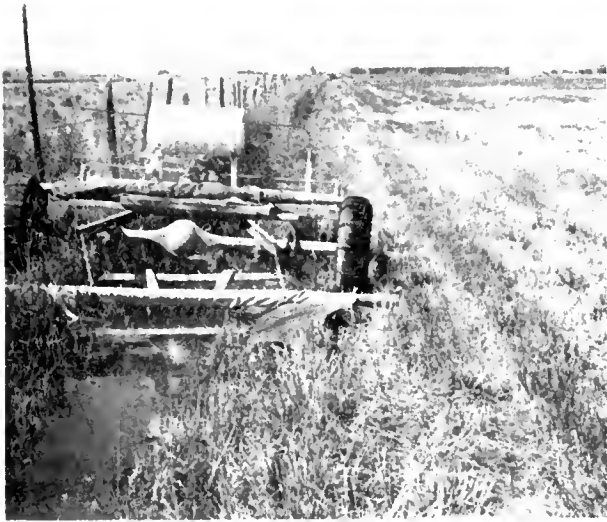


HEISER'S BAR & LOUNGE - BAKER, MONTANA

World's largest steer - 3980 lbs.



HEISER'S BAR & LOUNGE - BAKER, MONTANA

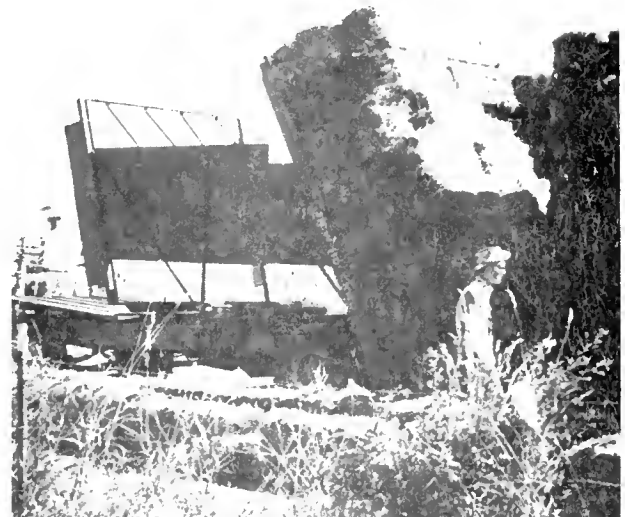
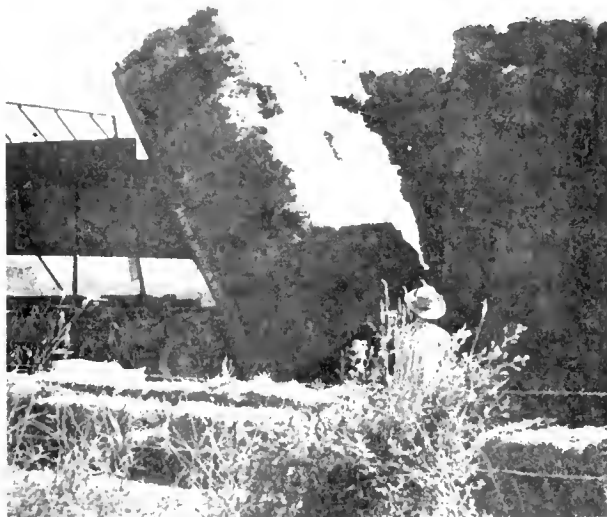


In operation South of Three Forks, this self-propelled Irrigator, using the Canvas Dam type of operation, is gasoline powered and guided by the front wheels in the ditch. It requires no supervision except to turn it around.

Requiring level ground, this unique machine is geared down to a snail's pace and it cannot visually be seen moving. The owner states that it takes the place of two full-time irrigators, and he has applied for a patent.

BOZEMAN LOCAL OFFICE AREA

The other picture depicts a Hay Cruiser in the stacking operation. This is another of the indications of the automation of haying in the Gallatin Valley.





GREAT FALLS LOCAL OFFICE AREA

Feed lots are the Thing Now

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Part I
ANNUAL SUMMARY

PLANNING

A. Changes in Administrative Organization

No changes were made in administrative organization during the 1967 season. The O & M "plans of action" are prepared by each local office on a quarterly basis, thereby enabling each office to prepare pre-season plans thirty days prior to the seasonal activities.

B. Pre-Season and In-Season Meetings

State and local office Farm Placement personnel participated in growers' and processors' pre-season meetings.

Farm Placement personnel, as heretofore, continued to work throughout the year with county and state Extension Services, Montana State Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation County Committees and local farm organizations.

C. Special arrangements for Recruitment are made in cooperation with other Government Agencies in other states.

Orders for sugar beet workers were placed in clearance with the state of Texas. In accordance with an agreement of several years, the Colorado Agency recruited workers in Texas for sugar companies in Montana. Several crews were obtained from Oklahoma.

A special program for youths was continued over the previous year in sugar beet activity. Crews were smaller and more streamlined. Average earnings were greater this year. The program was successful with few problems developing. The program is active in agricultural reporting areas 9-27-02 and 9-27-03.

Fewer Indians from local areas were recruited for the potato harvests due to mechanization. Youths were recruited extensively for hay and grain harvests. Sugar beet labor activity was reduced considerably in area 9-27-01 due to loss of sugar factory in that area.

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Major changes in the agricultural economy which had an impact on employment were, first of all an exceptional good spring which resulted in normal planting in most areas. All areas received sufficient moisture in June and late summer was hot and dry thus aiding grain and hay harvests. Turnover in the small youth beet program was normal, weedacides were a great help. Crop planting was a record for winter wheat. Adverse weather did not hamper harvests this year. Frost arrived in good time for potato and beet harvest but not extensive enough to cause damage. Stock was returned to winter ranges under above average conditions. Yields on hay and grain were excellent except the North Central area. Hay and grain were damaged by drought there. The general harvest of all crops was excellent. Tonnage was down slightly on sugar beets. Labor was more than adequate for the beet harvest with a good influx of Texas Mexicans. A supply of Indians was not needed due to other programs.

Due to a normal harvest season, hired workers were sufficient for the work force. The larvest demands were in wheat, other small grains and hay harvests. Beet thinning and pulling of weeds was normal. Harvests were slightly later than the previous year due to a late start. Beet and potato harvests had no delays. No potatoes were damaged by frost and some areas noted an increase in farm employment and wages and mechanical improvements. Adverse weather caused very little schedule changes on labor which resulted in shortages. Community programs were not needed to help the harvest.

Hay and harvest hands were in demand but also were amply taken care of by recruitment. It was a good year in farm employment much as it was the previous year. However, a small decline of demands was noted throughout the state similar to the national decline.

There was no major changes in land utilization in 1967 brought about by participation in production and acreage control programs of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, nor has expansion of urban development into rural areas caused large significant changes.

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

A. Seasonal Hired Farm Workers

Local labor is generally male and operates machinery such as tractors, hay balers, trucks and small grain combines. They also perform non-agricultural work, as heavy equipment operators, truck drivers, and construction labor.

Female work as ranch couples or single as ranch cook. Non-agricultural employment is generally as cook in a cafe or domestic work. In western Montana, housewives work in the small fruit and berry harvests.

Some High School youths of both sexes are recruited to hoe and thin sugar beets. Approximately 7,500 interstate male workers are employed in agricultural activities of small grains, haying, and livestock activities. They are single or unattached. These workers are mostly from California, Idaho, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, and Colorado. They also perform non-agricultural work as truck drivers and construction laborers.

Approximately 3,500 interstate workers are employed in the hoeing and thinning of sugar beets. These workers are primarily family groups, and both sexes 14 years and older work. Their main occupation is that of a vegetable farm laborer. The majority of these workers are from Texas and are of Mexican descent.

The most significant shortages of seasonal farm workers were for the spring seeding, late hay harvest and seeding. Domestic workers who were available for this activity were from surrounding states.

There was no significant surplus of seasonal farm workers. The influx was down; some shortages existed at times especially during the fall harvest and spring soil preparation.

B. Regular Hired Farm Workers

The livestock and dry land small grain activities are the major crops that employ regular hired farm workers. The general trend of employment for 1967 was equal to previous years. Generally, agreeable weather resulted in good agricultural activities, but there were some setbacks in a few areas due to dry conditions.

Mechanization is having its inroads and does decrease needs in some activities, such as mechanized feed lots hay and potato harvest, etc. However, better farming methods and scientific know-how is producing more from acreages.

Dry land and small grain farms continue to increase in size with the result that more farm machinery is being used. This is true especially in the eastern part of the state. Small acreages persist in western Montana. Many of the larger farms are maintaining large equipment and repair sheds, thus creating demands for skilled mechanical help and heavy machinery operators.

IMPACT OF MECHANIZATION AND OTHER CHANGES IN PRODUCTION METHODS

- A. The growing, care, and processing of sugar beets has been considered the main crop mechanized to the most significant degree in recent years. The harvest as heretofore mentioned in the previous report is about 100 per cent machanized, and thinning around 55 percent. Considerable care in the planting of the seeds is important for the subsequent use of mechanical thinners. Seeds of the mono-germ type must be placed in the ground at a pre-determined depth and interval of space. The size of the beet seed and cells of the plate in the planter must match. The equipment is simple in construction and does not require specialized knowledge to repair. During this season machines were used that would top six rows of sugar beets and dig three rows at a time thus contributing to a shorter harvest season and less labor.

In recent years wheat farms have been reduced in number but have doubled in size. This has resulted in the use of larger mechanical equipment for soil preparation, seeding, and summer fallowing, and consequently caused a reduction in the man-hours of work for these activities. The hay pick-up baler and loader has become widely used in most areas of Montana.

Since crops in general were more productive in 1967 than in 1966, there were greater labor requirements than the preceding year. A part of this, however, was due to increased acreage. It appears mechanization will be eliminating many hundreds in the next two or three years should the present advancement in machinery accelerate as it has been. It is anticipated that the thinning of sugar beets by hand will be eliminated in the above-mentioned period. In fact, much thinning has been eliminated so far. Through the use of the monogerm seed, space planting has become a reality, and further developments in the use of herbicides for positive weed control would eliminate any need for hand labor. The workers affected would be the domestic migrant composed of family groups of all ages and sexes. There is no longer a need for foreign workers. Local youth, too would be affected. Weedicides continue to reduce labor needs.

Regular Hired Farm Workers

It is becoming increasingly necessary that regular farm workers acquire skills in the operation and repair of farm equipment which requires advanced knowledge of operation and repair. Employers expect them to be skilled in operating and repairing the larger tractors and other machinery used in seeding, cultivating, spraying, and harvesting. While most regular workers have these skills, it does require that the new entrant into this work possess higher mechanical skills.

RECRUITMENT OF FARM WORKERS

Radio, television, newspaper publicity, letters, and posters were utilized by the local offices to obtain the maximum supply of local seasonal farm workers. Excellent results were obtained.

Two local offices conducted school registrations to recruit youth for work in sugar beets and fruit. During 1968 this technique and program will be used in two best area offices; but plans are being formulated to streamline the program and eliminate, as far as possible, the problems which to some extent hampered the 1967 program.

Volunteer Farm Placements Representatives were used in most local office areas. Where possible, VFPR's made placement from local sources or transmitted unfilled orders to local offices for action. Farmers and ranchers were advised of their local VFPR through local newspapers, radio, posters, and by direct promotional mail from the local offices. While all VFPR's were not 100 per cent effective, it is planned to continue this activity in 1968.

As heretofore, the local labor skilled supply was not sufficient to meet the demand for regular hired farm workers. Inter-office clearance was used for some occupations.

Montana Participated in the Annual Worker Plan

As an order-holding state, Montana received 495 scheduled crews and family heads involving 3176 workers. On the basis of actual contacts with the crews and examination of the ES-369's, the services rendered are reflected in Table 4 of this report. This does not include workers recruited by private companies.

C. Montana recruited no Puerto Ricans.

D. Housing

One hundred sixty housing inspections were made. These cannot, however, be directly related to interstate recruitment. This is due to the fact that when inspections are made prior to occupancy, and until domestic recruitment is completed, it is not possible to determine whether housing will be occupied by domestic families or groups of single workers. All housing is basically family type, on farm, necessitating a dual determination of suitability.

All agency inspections are made as a part of the regular program of field visiting. About 1,350 housing units are occupied at some time during the eight-week period that migratory labor is employed in large numbers.

State housing regulations are under the administration of the State Board of Health, Division of Environmental Sanitation. That agency limits participation in inspection, but the Department is ready to investigate complaints and does test water sources.

No difficulties have been encountered in arranging co-operation. There has not been any instance when, after attempts to secure improvement or unsatisfactory housing by other means, the State Board of Health has not taken appropriate action.

E. Wages

Periodic wage field surveys were made, along with regular employer contacts. Domestic migrant workers are recruited for spring beet work. Minimum wage rates per acre are fixed by public hearing. Since there is no comparable activity before or during the period of recruitment, field surveys were made during the working period.

The wage rate per acre system of remuneration causes wage survey difficulties above those found in most piece rate surveys. Field surveys were supplemented by examination of local office orders.

F. Foreign Workers

Domestic workers only were hired in the sugar beet pre-harvest activities. Most of the Mexican domestics were used between May 15 and July 15. The peak employment was on June 25th.

There were no organizational administrative or procedural changes, or special programs developed with respect to the use of domestics. No problems were encountered.

In the pre-season process of surveying the expected supply and demand for seasonal farm labor, each local office considers trends in production, employment, the labor market, mechanization, and other factors expected to influence the requirements and supply of labor. Local office records, such as agricultural orders, ES-223 In-Season Farm Labor Reports, and other records are utilized. Contacts are made with grower associations, processors, county agents, and other government agencies interested in agriculture.

Periodic wage surveys were made. The surveys were made in the field while the work was being performed. Wages rates paid were included in the survey data. The wage survey findings equaled or exceeded the U.S.D.A. rate of fair and reasonable wages. Housing inspections are planned for 1968 to comply with new regulations.

Meagher County and all seven Indian Reservations in the State are eligible under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965. The Montana State Employment Service has an agreement with the BIA for improving employment opportunities of both Reservation and Non-Reservation Indians. A mobile unit is now being used in the Billings area for the Crow and Cheyenne Indian Reservations with good success. Information from surveys into rural areas are being utilized to upgrade rural employment opportunities. Training programs have been useful in Indian and Woods Programs. 1967 was a good placement year for both Indians and Woods Workers. A basic education program for Indian families from all reservations is in full progress and is successful.

There were no problems related to housing, transportation, wages, health and medical facilities, or food which have interfered with recruitment and placement of local or migratory workers.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

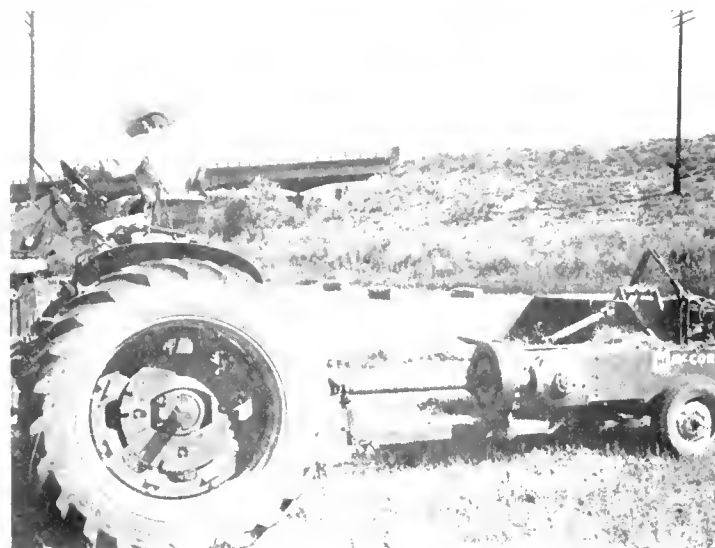
State and local office personnel participated in farm organization meetings, Chamber of Commerce, civic groups, and public schools to strengthen public understanding of the Agency's Farm Placement Program. Generally, the method is round table or informal discussion from the floor.

Newspaper, radio and television is used to disseminate farm labor market information. All local offices regularly prepare news releases designed for listener and reader appeal. Thousands of farm and harvest bulletins are mailed each year.

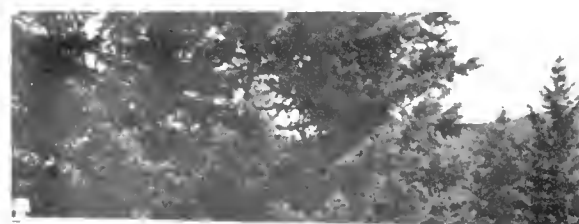
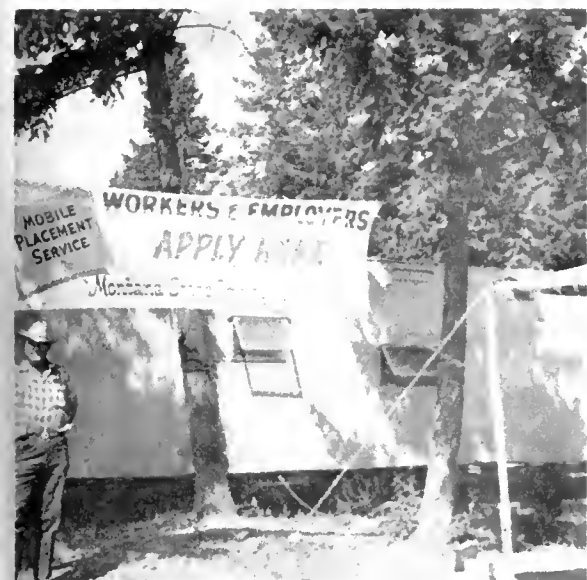
EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Placement totals decreased slightly under the preceding year. Moisture, growing and harvesting conditions varied, especially in the North Central part of the State where yield records were affected. This decrease was due to mechanization. The cherry crop was excellent in Polson and Kalispell. Activities, especially in livestock, grain farming and haying were superior to the previous year. This was an excellent harvest year. The "Youth in Sugar Beet Program" was minimized due to a good supply of domestic workers from Texas. Domestic workers were plentiful and considered very good help by most employers.

Every effort will be made to fully utilize local sources of labor, particularly in counties eligible under the Public Works and Economic Development Act.



BILLINGS LOCAL OFFICE AREA



KALISPELL LOCAL OFFICE AREA

Yellow Bay temporary ES office and two of the ES experts David Lake & Leonard Tudor



KALISPELL LOCAL OFFICE AREA

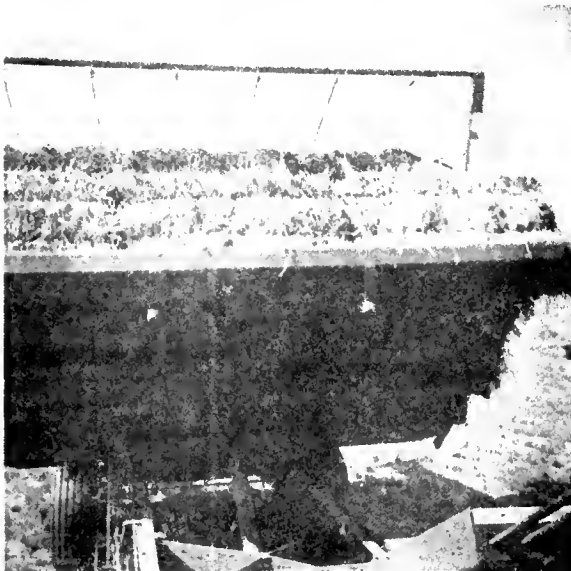
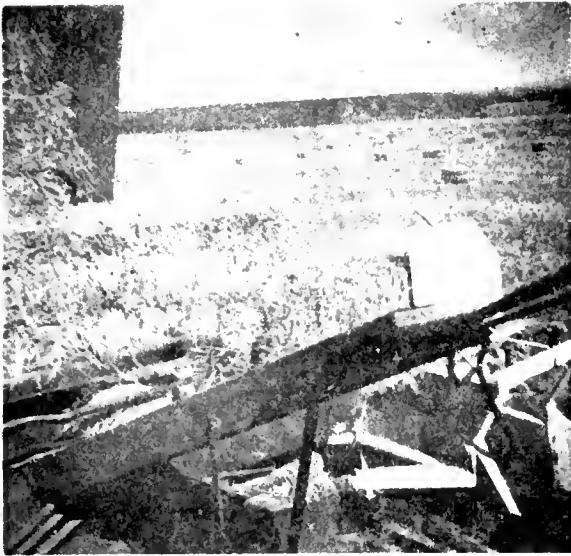
Sweet cherry pickers



Donald W. Milliren, President,
Flathead Cherry Growers Association



Ed Fockler, owner of area that pioneered
local cherry orchards



MISSOULA LOCAL OFFICE AREA

Hay Harvest

Employment Is Looking Better

Employment is up this month in Yellowstone County, and the picture will improve as the fair provides temporary employment for about 500 persons during its week of operation, says Clarence H. Nybo, Billings, manager of the Montana State Employment Service.

Employment in all non-agricultural industries remains level with last year, says Nybo, except for service which has declined slightly.

Agricultural employment increased from 2,100 to 3,200 during July after unseasonably heavy June rains.

July job placements by the employment service and Youth Opportunity Center totaled 2,023.



BILLINGS LOCAL OFFICE AREA

Irrigated Row Crops



Employment Service Opens Hardin Office

The Montana State Employment Service has set up a mobile office in Hardin.

The temporary office will help with recruitment of agricultural and non-agricultural workers and will provide information on the Job Corps, manpower training and labor market conditions.

Counseling services will be given Indians, MSES said.

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Butte Local Office area

The attached photos show the need for better trained men.

Each year more beaver slides are setting idel because of changing hay harvest methods. Bailing operations are taking over fast. The bailing of hay requires less men and a more specialized training. The longer time required to bail the same amount of hay is justified by the hay being protected better from the elements then when it is laying loose in the field, therefore, one crew can follow through and complete the harvest in stages as time allows.

Another new phas of operation for this area is the reclaiming of sage brush land by tilling, leveling and seeding to crested wheat grass.

This early spring grass will grow and turn green before other varities and can be developed on hill tops close to the ranch headquarters. This will allow one calving crew to cover more than one calving heard, cutting down the number of men required to cover scattered heards as in the past.



SIDNEY LOCAL OFFICE AREA

LOWER YELLOWSTONE IRRIGATION PROJECT

Don Franz Construction Company running cement ditching.



Several miles of irrigation ditches have been changed to cement ditches in this area to control erosion and evaporation. Also cement ditches are considerably easier to keep free of weeds.



The laborers on this job were referred by the Montana State Employment Service.

PART II
OUTLOOK FOR COMING YEAR

STATE FORECAST

The outlook on agricultural employment for Montana in 1968 is that employment is expected to be slightly under 1967 pending satisfactory weather conditions. However, since 1967 was an exceptionally good year, it could be that with more mechanization employment will decline perhaps to the extent of several hundred workers. Should moisture be sufficient, employment may not change to a significant extent. With usual winter conditions, the later part of the year some pickup should occur in feeding operations.

AREA FORECAST
AREA 9-28-01

Western Fruit & Sugar Beets

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-28-01, Western Fruit and Sugar Beet (Flathead Lake, Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell, Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater, and Meagher Counties).

The farm labor outlook for the coming year should be slightly down from 1967 provided weather conditions are favorable. Local and migratory labor should be available for all activities. Sugar beet acreage may decrease more since this is no longer considered a sugar beet area. A normal cherry crop is expected with hopes of no frost damage destruction as was experienced in some years. The 1967 crop was excellent.

The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

Soil preparation and seeding	April-May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May-August
Haying	June-September
Irrigating	May-August
Small fruit harvest	July-August
Small grain harvest	August
Potato harvest	September
Sugar beet harvest	September-October
Livestock seasonal activities	January-December

AREA 9-28-02

Southern Sugar Beets

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-28-02, Southern Sugar Beet (Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, Yellowstone, Treasure, Carbon, and Big Horn Counties).

Again the weather will be the deciding factor. It is expected labor requirements will be under those of 1967. The supply and demand for labor in irrigated activities will be approximately the same as last year. Local and migratory labor is expected to meet demands in all activities including sugar beets. A portion of the demand will be met through youth groups in the thinning, hoeing and weeding of sugar beets. Migrant domestic workers will be available for other states following the completion of thinning and hoeing of sugar beets in July. It is expected that sugar beet acreage will be increased in this area as it was last season.

The activities and approximate time periods involved:

<u>Crop Activities</u>	<u>Periods Involved:</u>
Spring soil preparation and seeding	April - May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May 15 - July 31
Haying	June - August
Fallowing	June - September
Small grain harvest	July - August
Sweet corn harvest	Aug 15 - Sept 15
Field corn harvest	August
Sugar beet harvest	September - October
Livestock seasonal activities	January - December

AREA 9-28.03

Lower Yellowstone Beet and Grain

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-28-03, Lower Yellowstone Beet and Grain (Garfield, McCone, Richland, Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Rosebud, Custer, Fallon, Powder River, and Carter Counties).

Should moisture content repeat that of 1967, employment requirements should be the same except there will be some adjustment on sugar beet acreages. In irrigated areas there is little anticipated change. Local and migratory labor should be available for all activities including sugar beets. Demands could be less due to the success of weedacides and mechanization.

The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

<u>Crop Activities</u>	<u>Periods Involved</u>
Spring soil preparation and seeding	April - May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May - July
Haying	June - August
Irrigation	June - September
Fallowing	May - August
Small grain harvest	July - August
Sugar Beet Harvest	September - October
Livestock seasonal activities	January - December

AREA 9-28-04

Triangle and Highline Hardwheat

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-28.04, Triangle and Highline Hard Wheat (Teton, Choteau, Cascade, Judith Basin, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Roosevelt, and Sheridan Counties.)

This is primarily a dryland wheat growing and livestock area.. Should sufficient moisture be received in 1967, the labor requirements may repeat. However, a dry year could make a difference. It is anticipated that local workers and voluntary in-migration of interstate workers will satisfy all demands for this area's activities

It appears that the sugar beet acreage and the demand for labor will be decreased for 1968.

<u>Crop Activities</u>	<u>Periods Involved</u>
Spring soil preparation and seeding	April-May
Sugar beet thinning and hoeing	May-June
Haying	June-August
Irrigation	June-August
Small grain harvest	July-August
Fallowing	May-September
Sugar beet harvest	October
Livestock seasonal activities	January-December

Table 1 Selected Data on Farm Placement Operations in 1967

Section A. Day-Haul Activities	
1. Operated by State agency:	
a. Day-haul points	0
b. Towns with day-haul points	0
c. Sum of workers transported on average day in	0
d. Sum of workers transported on peak day in each town	0
2. Established (unsupervised by State Agency):	
a. Day-haul points	2
b. Towns with day-haul points	2
c. Sum of workers transported on average day in each town	23
d. Sum of workers transported on peak day in each town	31
Section B. Services to School Age Youth	
3. Towns in which separate school age youth programs are operated	0
4. Day-haul points operated separately for school age Youth	0
a. Sum of school age youth workers transported on peak day in each town	0
5. Day-haul points established by State agency for school age youth	2
6. Supervised camps operated for school age farm workers	0
a. Placements in camp	0
7. Placements of school age youth in supervised live-in farm homes	0
Section C. Services to other special groups	
8. Services rendered to Indians by local office on itinerant points on reservations:	
a. Placements	605
b. Applicant holding acceptances	26
9. Other placements of reservation Indians	1065
Section D. Other special services	
10. Local offices which held farm clinics	0
11. Days on which farm clinics were held	0
12. Issues of farm labor bulletins published	25
a. Copies distributed	8750
13. Work guides distributed	350
a. Within reporting State	200
b. To other States	150
14. Local offices participating in formal community service programs	6
15. Volunteer farm placement representatives	149

II

Worksheet A. Day-haul activities, by town

- () 1. At points operated by State Agency
- (X) 2. At points established (unsupervised) by State Agency

Towns	Number of Day-Haul Points		Number of Workers Transported		
	Total	School Age Youth	Average Day	Peak	Day
				Total	School Age Youth
I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Sidney	1	1	11	11	11
Hamilton	1	1	12	20	20
	2	2	23	31	31

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Employment Security
ES-225 Table 4

Budget Bureau No 44-R779.6
State MONTANA

Table 4. Interstate Agricultural Migrant Activities in 1967

Section A		Migrant Contacts		Section B Individuals Represented	
Type	By Reporting State	With Reporting State's Residents	Age and Sex	In Sec. A. Col III	
I	II	III	I	II	
a. Total	495	0	2. Total	4847	
a. Crew Leaders	76	0	a. Male 16 & over	1782	
b. Family Heads	402	0	3. Under 16	1771	
c. Other	17				
Section C		Worker Characteristics			
1. Type	Number				
2. 1	II				
4. Families	658				
5. Unattached males	210				
6. Unattached females	19				

Table 5 Interstate Seasonal Agricultural Clearance Activities in 1967

Item	Orders		Openings	
	Extended (Sec A) received (Sec B)	Filled	Extended (Sec A) received (Sec B)	Filled
I	II	III	IV	V
Section A. Reporting State as Order-Holding State				
Reporting State, total	7	6	2485	2435
Applicant-holding States Involved:				
Oklahoma-Texas-Colorado	1	1	300	300
Texas-Colorado	2	2	2100	2100
Texas	3	3	35	35
North Dakota-South Dakota-Idaho-Wyoming	1	0	50	0
Section B. Reporting State as Applicant-Holding State				
Reporting State, total	37	0	16938	1202
Order-holding States involved:				
California	6	0	7550	27
Colorado	6	0	1975	14
Idaho	2	0	58	5
Illinois	1	0	7	184
Iowa	0	0	0	6
Michigan	0	0	0	308
North Dakota	2	0	2	31
Ohio	0	0	0	106
Oregon Texas	1	0	100	42
Utah Washington	1	0	1	0
Wisconsin-Washington	0	0	0	4
Wyoming-Wisconsin	7	0	6750	475
Wyoming	11	0	55	0

* - Column V Section B are acceptances on referral of migrant beet workers to other States of which did not extend orders to Montana



GREAT FALLS 1

Cattle Guard -

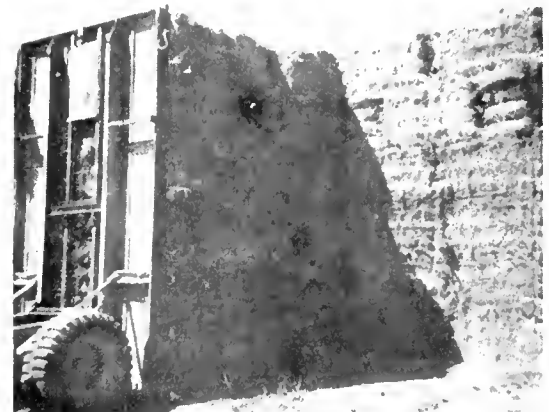
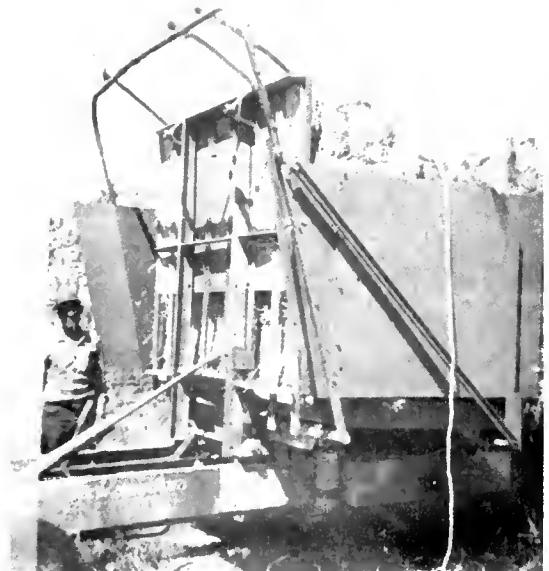
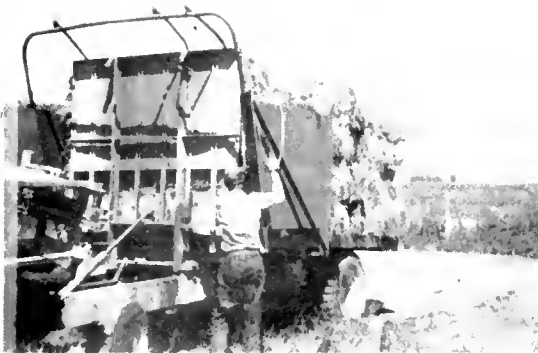
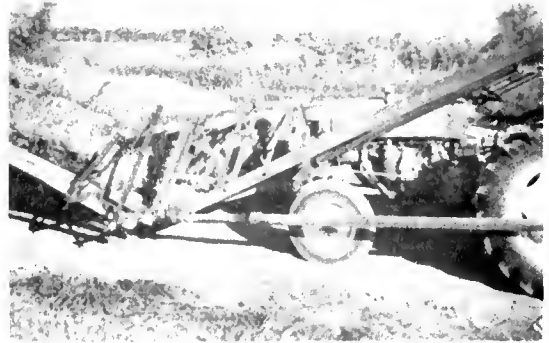
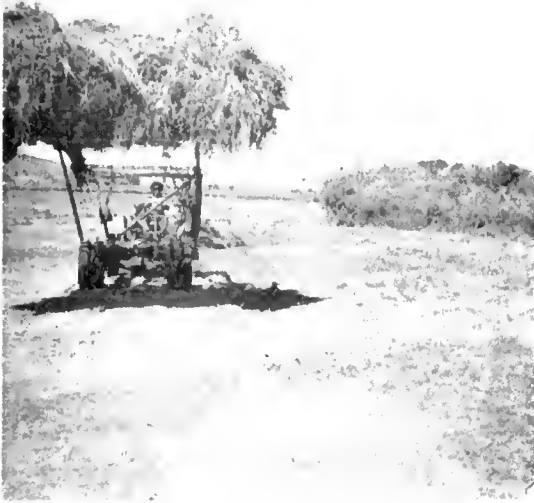
Fresh air

Machine are



ILES CITY LOCAL OFFICE AREA
unch hands at work in the cow country





DILLON LOCAL OFFICE AREA

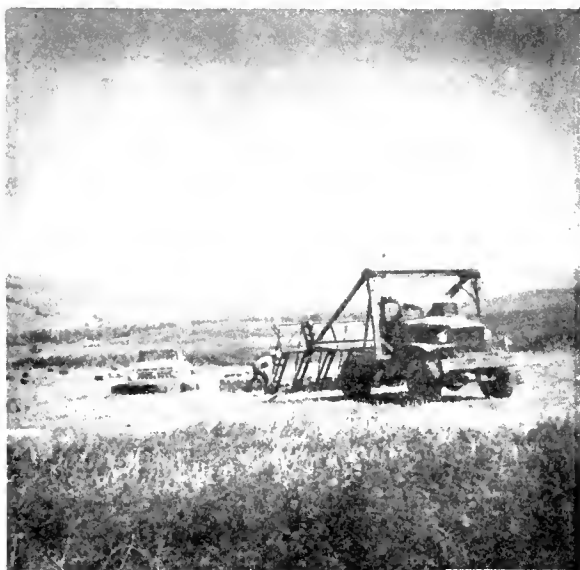
Farm hand loading hay, farm hand picking up
bales, bale loader, bale stacker



KALISPELL LOCAL OFFICE AREA

Yellow Bay checking station





MISSOULA LOCAL OFFICE AREA

Hay Harvest



POLSON LOCAL OFFICE AREA

Cherry harvest activity



SIDNEY LOCAL OFFICE AREA

Topping sugar beets with three-row topper.



y using extension chute, six rows of tops are put in one indrow.



Lifting sugar beets with three-row sugar beet harvester.



Montana Farm Labor Bulletin



FARM PLACEMENT DIVISION MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

U.C.C. Building — Helena, Montana
Phone 442-3260 — Ext. 540



April 26, 1967

Number 3

STATE SUMMARY: Adverse weather conditions have slowed field activities. Need for qualified single farm hands, couples and tractor operators will increase when weather warms, flow of transients is slow. Current activities are soil prep, seeding, gen farm and ranch work, calving and lambing are in the final stages.

Top conditions change rapidly. Contact the nearest local office before leaving area.

Western

ACONDA: Main activities are gen farm and ranch work. Calving, lambing and potato sorting in final stages. Weather wet and cold. Short 4 gen ranch hands and 1 irrigator - salaries range from \$175 to \$200 p/mo B&R.

ATE: Main activities are calving, lambing and potato sorting. Weather windy and cold. Short ranch hands that can drive teams \$175 p/mo B&R.

CLON: Activities are calving, lambing, fencing, soil prep, irrigating and herding. Weather cold with snow showers. Short 10 ranch and farm hands \$175 to \$210 p/mo R&B. Short 1 female ranch cook 8 to 10 to cook for - separate cooking and living quarters, \$175 p/mo B&R.

ILLION: Main activities are gen farm and ranch work, field work, fertilizing and seeding, potato sorting and shipping. Weather seasonal with rain and snow showers. Short 1 ranch couple \$200 p/mo plus housing and 1 dairy couple \$330 p/mo, low rent housing available. Other labor supply and demand balanced.

LENA: Main activities include fencing, ditch cleaning and gen farm maintenance. Weather warming after rain and snow showers of last week. Soil prep expected to be in full swing within a week. Shortages include 2 female cooks, \$200 p/mo B&R, 1 dairy couple \$200 plus housing; 5 openings for ranch work at \$175 B&R.

ISPELL: Main activities are gen farm work and potato sorting and grading. Potato grading could be finished in 2 weeks. Field work getting underway: wages \$1.25 p/hr to \$2.00 p/hr. Weather clear and warming.

SONIA: Weather showing a warming trend with average amount of moisture. Soil prep and fertilizing main activities. Short 15 single hands at \$175 p/mo B&R and 2 farm couples at \$250 p/mo plus housing.

SON: Weather warm and sunny. Increased activity in farm labor market. Demand for single ranch hands \$1.50 p/hr or \$150 p/mo B&R. Potato work about completed. Some late calving going on.

South Central

LINGS: Activities are: Soil prep and seeding, calving, lambing, shearing, ditch pulling/cleaning, field spraying and land leveling. Shortages are: 3 farm couples @ \$175-\$300 p/mo plus housing; 3 ranch couples at \$150-300 p/mo plus housing; 4 single farm and ranch hands \$175-200 p/mo B&R. Weather unseasonably cool with snowfall reported in most of local office area. Field activity temporarily retarded but resumed by weekend.

NGSTON: Current activities are feeding, fencing, ditch cleaning, and soil prep. Short 6 single hands for gen ranch work, wages \$200-225 p/mo B&R. One ranch couple \$275 p/mo plus modern home and 2 female ranch cooks, wages \$150-200 p/mo. Weather warming during days but nights are

MAN: Current activities are feeding livestock, fencing, & cleaning irrigation ditches. Field work getting underway slowly, due to adverse weather conditions. Ground still wet in immediate man area. Short 14 single qualified farm hands with experience in operating big farm tractors. Willing to stay until the end of the season. Wages \$200-225 p/mo B&R. Must be willing to

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rk. Short 2 married ranch hands - salary around \$300 with a 2 bedroom house on one job and will have to have own house trailer on the other job, wages to start at \$325 p/mo. References are required. Short 2 experienced lambers for range lambing for about 10 days, beginning April 29th. Wages \$10 and up per day, B&R.

WISTOWN: Main activities will be field work as soon as weather permits. Received 4 inches of snow during the past week. Current need of 37 single farm & ranch hands at about \$200 p/mo B&R and 4 married couples at \$250-\$325 plus housing.

North Central

OT BANK: Activities include lambing, calving, sheep tagging & machine maintenance. Soil too wet to start in fields. Weather warm but freezing at night. Approximately 8 inches of snow still on level with drifts up to 5 feet. Short 16 single men - \$175-200 p/mo.

GASGOW: Snow storms stopped field work in the southern part of the area and further delayed activities in the northern areas. No heavy demand for workers expected for approx a week or 10 days. Presently short 10 single workers for gen farm work and fencing. Wages \$12 and up B&R \$225 p/mo.

SEAT FALLS: Feeding, calving and lambing still continue to be main activities. Up to 11 inches of snow fell this past week holding up dryland operations. No appreciable amount of tractor work started as yet. Weather cold and unsettled. Wages remain same as previous report.

LYRE: Activities lambing and calving. Snow showers and cold weather leaving 18½ inches of snow on the level. Temperature fell below zero with 14 degrees below. Lambing and calving losses are expected to be heavy as soon as roads are open and we get reports. Field work not expected for at least 10 days. If the snow goes off fast floods are expected.

ELBY: Snow and wet weather has halted most field activities except for lambing and calving. Short 17-18 qualified gen farm and tractor operators when weather clears. Transient travel light.

OF POINT: Despite snow and cold weather, demand for farm labor is unabated. Wages for single hands \$225-275 p/mo - \$12-15 for day wages.

Eastern

INDIVE: Current activities are lambing, calving and limited field work. Some snow last week slowed field work. Short 4 single farm hands. Wages \$150-200 p/mo B&R.

LES CITY: Weather cold and wet, ground still too wet to work.

NEY: Livestock care and feeding are main ag activities, all field work will be held up for at least the rest of the week by snow storm that hit last Thursday. Short 8 single farm hands mainly irrigated farms, wages \$200 p/mo B&R.

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U.C.C. Building — Helena, Montana
Phone 442-3260 — Ext. 540



August 9, 1967

Number 18

STATE SUMMARY: Main activities are grain harvest, haying, irrigating and summer fallowing. Wet cherry harvest virtually complete. No significant shortage or surplus of men or machines in many areas. Weather continues ideal for harvest except for scattered thundershowers. Heavy hail damage in isolated areas.

Top conditions change rapidly - Contact the nearest local office before leaving area.

Western

CONDA: Main activities are haying & irrigating. Weather excellent. Supply of men is adequate which has resulted in the haying operations progressing ahead of schedule.

TE: Haying operations are 50% completed in the Big Hole area. Irrigation of 2nd crop alfalfa and potatoes in the lower elevations. Labor supply in balance.

LON: Main activities haying, irrigating, sheeguarding and fencing. Labor supply meeting the demand. Weather hot and dry.

MILTON: Main activities haying, irrigating, berry and cherry picking. Weather hot and dry. Labor supply meeting demand but could have shortage of cherry pickers in a week.

HELENA: Hay harvest about complete. Preparations underway for harvest of grain. Labor supply adequate. Irrigation of alfalfa and fencing main activities. Scattered rain showers in area over weekend.

WISPEL: Main activities are picking cherries - near completion; haying second cutting alfalfa and wild hay. Grain harvest in full swing. Wages \$1.50 to \$2.00 p/hr. No shortage or surplus. Weather hot and dry.

BOULDER: Weather hot and dry. First cutting of hay in final stages. Demand for workers light. Could use experienced irrigators and one general farmhand at \$1.75 p/mo B&R.

BOZEMAN: Cherry crop completed - had good weather and a bumper crop. Grain harvest started and second hay crop. No shortage of help.

South Central

GLASSBORO: Activities are grain harvest, haying and straw baling, irrigating, completion of sugar beet weeding and summer fallowing. Shortages are 4 farm couples with irrigation experience at \$5-300 p/mo plus housing; 1 ranch couple at \$275 p/mo plus housing; 2 single farmhands with irrigation experience at \$200-225 p/mo plus housing; 1 single sheeguarder at \$175 p/mo B&R. The weather generally hot and dry with some scattered showers reported in area during the weekend.

IN BULLETIN: Winter wheat yields above average with reports of 36 to 45 bushels per acre. Grain averages are 9 to 12%. Weight running 60 to 64 lbs. Irrigated spring wheat early reports are 42 to 55 bu per acre, protein 13 to 15% and weight 60 lbs. First dryland barley reports 40 to 48 bu per acre and irrigated barley running 58 to 71 bushels per acre. Irrigated alfalfa averaging 90 to 100 bu per acre and weight running lighter at 30 to 34 lbs. Overall completion of harvest approx 40%. No definite shortage of custom units exist at this time with approx 120 units in the area. Rates reported at \$3.50 per acre plus 5¢ per bushel for over 20 bushels.

WILSON: Main activities haying, irrigating and tractor driving. Haying delayed due to heavy rains almost daily. Nearly all openings being filled by students. Short 1 irrigator \$1.50 p/hr. 1 ranch couple \$175-\$300 to start plus housing.

WILSON: Main activities combining and haying. Weather favorable and work progressing well. Fully meeting demands. HARVEST underway in the Winifred & Denton areas with scattered cutting in Brooks and Moccasin areas. Wheat averaging about 30 bushels to the acre and weight of 6-61 lbs. No surplus of one custom cutter at this time.

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HELENA: Current activities haying, summer fallowing irrigating. Short 3 combine operators to start soon after Aug 10 - wages \$15-\$20 p/da B&R. Need 1 grain truck driver about Aug 10th-\$12-15 da. All jobs to last approx 3 weeks. First cutting of alfalfa 95% complete. Second cutting to start in 7 to 10 days.

North Central

FT BANK: Main activities haying, fencing, summer fallowing & rock picking. Labor supply meeting demand. Wages \$10 p/da B&R. HARVEST has started with swathing in several areas. Hail damage up to 70% in northern part of county. Weather hot and dry..

WASGOW: Activities are haying and harvesting with only a light demand for men. Weather warm and dry. Labor supply & demand in balance. HARVEST: Combining of spring grains has started in the southern part of the area but most grain is too green to cut. Crop yield down. No shortage of men or machines at this time.

ST. FALLS: Weather conditions ideal for harvest. Grain harvest 45% complete in Ft Benton-Caldine area, demands mostly for custom cutters. Harvest to begin north of St Falls 8-10 and Dutton-Prady area 8-15. Short of custom cutters which may change rapidly as harvest progresses. Second cutting alfalfa to begin this week. Demand for gen hands for irrigating, fence building and tractor work. Wages \$15-\$20 for truck driving, \$20-\$25 combine and \$10 gen farm tractor work, all with room and board.

FAIRBANKS: Activities haying, irrigation, summer fallowing, beet weeding & small grain harvest. Weather warm & dry. Wages \$10-\$12 p/da B&R. GRAIN HARVEST progressing rapidly from Fairbanks north, south and west to Canadian border on the north, Chester to the West & Ft Benton to the south. Small grain harvest well underway in the area north and south of Chinook and Harlem. Harvest in Turner area ready in 2 weeks. All areas report sufficient men & machines. Harvest wages \$15-18 p/da for truck drivers, \$20-25 p/da B&R for combine operators and \$3.50 p/acre plus 50 bushel over 20 bushel.

SHELBY: Cloudy, light showers and some hail north of Shelby. Some area up to 100% damage reported. Harvest started on small scale, full swing by end of week. No shortage of men and machines. Next shortage of men latter part of week. Wages \$12-\$15 truck drivers, \$20-25 combine men.

DEER HORN: Harvest limited to winter wheat in So Roosevelt and North McKone counties. Custom cutters with commitments starting to move into area. No demand for harvest hands.

Eastern

CLENDIVE: Weather warm & dry. Main farming activities are summer fallowing and small grain harvest. Short 3 single farm hands. Wages \$8-10 p/da B&R. Winter wheat harvest is about 35% complete with yields of 25 to 35 bushels per acre in the Clendive area. No shortage of custom combines or trucks. Could be a shortage of operators this week.

WHEAT RIVER: Current activity winter wheat harvest, weather cool with shower activity. Short 2 single farm hands, \$10-\$12 p/da B&R. HARVEST of winter wheat is progressing rapidly. Several calls for custom machines. Seems to be some shortage of machines at this time.

HELENA: Major activities are wheat harvest and haying. If weather permits, wheat harvest could be completed this week. No surplus of combines and harvest help. Labor balanced at this time.

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3

June 30, 1967

SPECIAL REPORT ON MONTANA SWEET CHERRY HARVEST

The Flathead Cherry Grower's Association has reported that the 1967 cherry crop will be excellent. Weight-wise, the crop is expected to exceed last year's crop.

With continued favorable growing conditions, the crop should be ready to pick on or about July 25th. Some pollinizers should be ready on July 20th or before. Duration of harvest is approximately three weeks.

Picking rate will be $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5¢ per pound.

The Montana State Employment Service will open a mobile office at Yellow Bay Store on the East Shore of Flathead Lake on July 17th. In addition, workers can contact the Montana State Employment Service office at 427 First Avenue East, Kalispell, telephone (406) 756-5071 or Salish Hotel Building, Polson, telephone (406) 883-2589.

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Montana State Employment Service

DIVISION OF
UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION
COMMISSION



AFFILIATED WITH
UNITED STATES
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

1000 First Avenue South
Great Falls, Montana

In order that migrant farm workers may be gainfully employed throughout the farm season they must move from farm to farm and from area to area. That is where we, the Montana Employment Service, come into the picture. The Employment Service has been successful in the placement of many good farm hands in this area in the past seasons and we would like to, again, be a service to you!

As you know numerous select farm hands and farm couples migrate into Montana from neighboring states, mostly from the midwest. Not being familiar with the area or where the greatest possibilities of work would be, naturally they contact us, the Employment Service, to route them to jobs to which they would be best suited.

Now that the coming farm season is fast approaching may we suggest that you place your order early in order that the greatest amount of attention can be given your request for help before the season does arrive.

Remember that old adage "The early bird gets the worm" so place your order early, not for the worm, but for a good well qualified agricultural employee.

Sincerely yours,

Otto Peterson
Otto Peterson, Manager
Great Falls Local Office

By: Roy O Young
Farm Representative

Weather Hastening Harvest

By WILL GARDNER
Tribune Farm Writer

Recent hot, dry weather being experienced in the Triangle Area has hastened grain harvest to a point where combining activities are expected to be in full swing in the Fort Benton area during the first week of August.

Otto Peterson, manager of the Montana State Employment office in Great Falls stated that the temporary office in Fort Benton was scheduled to open August 7, but due to the rapid ripening of grain, the office is opening Monday. This season it will be located in the barber shop at 1406 Front Street. This office is expected to be open for two weeks or until its services are no longer required for the grain harvest.

Request for combine operators, truck drivers, and custom cutters can be made through this office for placement of local job seekers. In the event that local help or machines are not available, the employment service through its network of offices within the state and communications system to other states can procure the needed help required.

It was noted that there is a possibility of a shortage of custom cutters due to a large amount of green grain yet to be harvested in Nebraska and Colorado with South Dakota and North Dakota just getting started with harvest.

Farms desiring the services of custom cutters and machine operators should contact the ranch office at Fort Benton by phoning 622-3715 or contacting the main office in Great Falls 1000 First Avenue South or calling 453-0351 indicating that their requirements will be complete harvest activities.

6

Thursday, Oct. 19, 1967



Farms Lose Jobs; Government Gains

As agricultural employment continues to decline in Montana, governmental employment increases.

Studies of the Upper Midwest Research and Development Council show that agricultural employment fell by 3,800 from 1960 to 1965 and is projected to fall by another 7,800 by 1975. The agricultural employment figures include self-employed operators and family workers as well as hired labor.

Statistics reported by the research organization, which has headquarters in Minneapolis, predict that non-agricultural employment will expand at a rate sufficiently high to offset the agricultural employment decline and allow a total employment increase.

The studies reveal that federal government employment in Montana increased by 2,058 during 1960-65 while state and local government em-

ployment increased by 5,596. Further increments of 1,692 in federal employment and 12,406 in local and state employment are projected by 1975.

The research report emphasizes that government employment is important to Montana, accounting for 19 per cent of total employment in 1965. Its importance will increase in coming years, studies indicate.

Employment in the service industries increased by 4,267 during 1960-65 and is projected to increase by another 11,906 by 1975.

Montana's total employment increased by 9,566 during 1960-65—from 233,863 to 243,429 and is expected to reach 363,295 by 1975.

Since the employment growth rate in Montana is considerably under the national average, it will be necessary for the state to use every resource at its command to improve its employment record.

Dear Sir:

Summertime is haying time and haying time means extra help for many ranchers.

Here at your State Employment Service Office, we are ready and willing to supply you with qualified farm workers who are experienced and able to perform a variety of farm occupations.

We urge you to contact us as soon as your labor needs are known. Your order will receive immediate attention.

Very truly yours,

Otto Peterson, Manager
Great Falls Local Office

Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Statistical Reporting Service

and
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS



CROP REPORT - OCTOBER 1, 1967

MONTANA

FAVORABLE WEATHER AIDS HARVEST Weather was favorable during September for completion of grain and hay harvest in Montana. A long, frost-free season helped mature and increase yield potential of late harvested crops. Insufficient rainfall during the season reduced production in the northern part of the State and west of the Divide. A good general rain was received around mid-September over most of the eastern two-thirds of Montana. In many northern counties, this was the first significant precipitation since mid-June.

RECORD HIGH WHEAT CROP ESTIMATED Montana's 1967 all wheat crop was estimated at 119,280,000 bushels based on October 1 indications. This year's crop will be a new record high and will exceed last year's output by 18 percent and the 1961-65 average production by 40 percent. This is an increase of 878,000 bushels from the September 1 estimate because of better than expected yields of spring wheat, excluding durum, in the northern drought stricken areas. Winter wheat production was estimated at 81,664,000 bushels. This was 26 percent above a year ago and 67 percent larger than the 5-year average. Yield was estimated at 29.0 bushels per harvested acre, one bushel less than last year's record high. The production of spring wheat, excluding durum, was estimated at 32,486,000 bushels based on October 1 indications. The current crop is 14,000 bushels more than last year and 405,000 bushels more than average. Yield at 18.5 bushels is 3.5 bushels per acre less than in 1966. Durum wheat output was estimated at 5,130,000 bushels, unchanged from the September 1 forecast. This is the largest durum wheat production since 1962. Yield at 19.0 bushels per acre is 4.5 bushels less than last year.

MONTANA WHEAT PROTEIN-1967 CROP

Winter Wheat Protein Slightly Below Last Year Protein content of Montana's 1967 winter wheat averaged 12.2 percent according to the Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. This is based on 6,345 samples tested during August at grain testing laboratories in Great Falls, Bozeman and Harlowton, and compares with 12.6 percent based on 7,905 tests made in August last year.

Individual tests ranged from 7.2 to 18.8 percent. Protein content was below last year in all except the northwest and north central districts. Averages were highest in the northeastern district which, at 14.1 percent, was down 0.1 percentage point from 1966. The southeastern district, with 13.6 percent, was down 1.0 point. Averages for other districts for August this year and last year in descending order were as follows: north central, 12.8 and 12.6 percent; central, 11.2 and 12.5; northwest, 11.2 and 10.7; southwest, 11.1 and 12.3; and south central, 10.8 and 12.4 percent. Counties with the highest averages were Roosevelt 15.2, Valley 15.0, McCone 14.9, Blaine and Phillips 14.7, and Carter 14.5 percent. Tests of 13.0 percent or more were recorded for 35.8 percent of all winter wheat samples.

WINTER WHEAT IN GENERALLY GOOD CONDITION

Montana's winter wheat was reported in generally good condition as of November 3. However, condition is only fair to good in several north central and northwestern counties due to a shortage of topsoil moisture which resulted in late seeding of many fields and spotty stands. There was virtually no pasturing of livestock on the new seedings.

The Dillon Daily TRIBUNE-EXAMINER

Bumper Harvest

Once Arid Lands Now Green With Crops as Rains, Irrigation Spur Rapid Growth

The East Bench Reclamation Project, a 32-mile strip of formerly arid land extending through Beaverhead and Madison Counties, has blossomed into a lush farming region — replete with hay, wheat, barley, and potato crops — thanks to a rare combination of plentiful rains and irrigation supplies from the Clark Canyon Reservoir.

Now in only its second full year of production, the East Bench is a verdant 20,000-acre expanse of green richness with first-cutting hay crops already exceeding last year's double harvest, and billowing fields of grain promising yields as high as 75 to 80 bushels per acre.

The project, varying in width from one-half to five miles, incorporates a total of 22,500 acres, of which 20,000 are seeded and the remainder currently utilized for pasture.

Grains are the major product, totaling over 10,000 acres. Hay fields account for approximately 9,000 and potatoes are thriving on over 300 acres.

June rains which deposited over three and one-half inches of moisture were supplemented by reservoir irrigation supplies to revitalize the land after a searing 1966 drought, termed the worst in over half a century.

Success Despite Drought

Despite the unfavorable growing conditions last year, East Bench operators still exceeded crop expectations with irrigation supplies routed from the reservoir, 20 miles south of Dillon, through the East Bench canal which wends its 45-mile course from Barrett Diversion Dam to the Ruby River near Twin Bridges.

In addition, the reservoir provides supplemental irrigation for 30,000 acres in the Beaverhead Valley, feeding the vital water to ranches over a 45-mile route from the dam to a point five miles south of Twin Bridges.

Due to ample rainfall, irrigation demands this year were at a minimum prior to early July, according to Dick Kennedy, East Bench chief of operations and maintenance. Over 11 inches of rain have been recorded in the area already this year—compared to 1966's meager total of 6.19.

Storage at the reservoir this week was listed at 164,000 acre feet, well above the 157,800 goal required to insure both conservation and irrigation needs.

Originated in 1964

The \$22,500,000 East Bench Reclamation Project was completed in 1964 with the dedication of Clark Canyon Dam and storing of water was instituted on August 28 of that year.

The 57 farming units on the benchlands stretching northeast of Dillon were auctioned at a state land sale in November of 1963 and initial farming operations began the following year.

At present, 52 operators are pioneering the farm work on units ranging from small isolated tracts to those comprising up to 220 acres of irrigable land.

July Rains Hamper Haying

Brief but heavy July thunder-showers have created some "lodging" of both hay and grain due to failure of soft topsoil to support the plants.

This collapsing of crops could create slight losses in harvesting but does not appear to be of major concern at this time.

No disease or insect problems are reported in grain although weevils have posed minor problems in the alfalfa.

First cuttings of hay began early

this month but the wet weather has hampered both cutting and stacking of bales. About two-thirds of the initial hay crop was reported cut as of this week but only 40 per cent had been stacked.

The grain harvest is expected to begin by mid-August as many of the crops are already showing signs of "heading out".

Experimental Aids

Aiding the East Bench operators is an experimental program conducted by the Montana State Extension Service at MSU, Bozeman, under Stan Howard, extension agent for the project.

Two plots, one near Dillon and the other at the bench's northern boundaries near Twin Bridges, contain 183 crop testings.

Checked periodically, these plots determine exact fertilizer and water amounts required for peak production on all types of crops.

Findings recorded on the testing sites have played a major role in the early success of East Bench farming.

Old-timers, who recall the drought-plagued dry-farm struggles of the 1920s on this same land have only one word for the current East Bench productivity—"Phenomenal!"

And for a hungry world population, exploding beyond its capabilities to produce sufficient food, projects such as this may prove the answer to a critical dilemma.

Choteau Acantha

Thursday, July 6, 1967

Choteau, Montana

Haying Help Is Available

With haying operations getting into full swing the demand for hay hands is expected to be high for the next two weeks. This statement was issued by Otto Peterson, manager of the State Employment office in Great Falls.

Demands for machine operators, bale stackers and custom crews is expected to exceed the supply due to the abundance of hay to be cut this season. Presently the office in Great Falls has a surplus of semi-experienced hay hands in addition to a number of good experienced hands capable of operating swathers, balers, mowers, rakes, bale sweeps and harrow beds. There also are a number of contract crews available for stacking in addition to operators who have their own equipment for mowing, raking, baling and stacking.

If anyone is interested in procuring the services of any of these units, Peterson urged farmers and ranchers to contact the volunteer farm representative in Choteau who now is Whitie Wilson and he may be contacted at Whitie's Enco Service at 302 Main Ave., Choteau or by calling 466-2572. Persons may also contact the Employment Office in Great Falls.

RIVER

Fort Benton, Montana, August 2, 19

PRESS

NOTICE!

Farmers and Ranchers

**FORT BENTON, GERALDINE, CARTER
and LOMA AREAS**

The Montana State Employment Service Will

Open A Temporary Harvest Labor Office

July-31, through Aug. 11, 1967

**LOCATION:--PASTIME BARBER SHOP
1406 FRONT ST. IN FORT BENTON**

CONTACT

Dale DeVault

Call 622-3715 Fort Benton

PLACE YOUR FARM ORDER NOW!!

ATTENTION

MR. ROY O. YOUNG

Your Montana State Employment
Service Representative from Great Falls

will be at the

County Comm. Office in Choteau

on Thursday, July 27 from 9 A.M. to 12

If you have labor needs or if you are seeking work, contact him there. Should you desire to contact him prior to arrival, call 453-0351 in Great Falls.



Chouteau County Relies on Custom Cutters

By ED MENDEL
Staff Writer

Since World War II, a large number of Montana farmers have come to rely on the services of the "custom cutter" to harvest their grain.

This year, from the state's largest wheat-growing county, comes a report that the number of custom cutters seeking employment has dropped.

Chouteau County had the third largest wheat allotment of any county in the nation this year. With an allotment of 338,754 acres, it trailed only Texas County, Oklahoma (406,947), and Whiteman County, Washington (350,930), according to the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

About 40 per cent of the grain in Chouteau County is harvested by custom cutters, estimates Extension Agent George Erickson. Consequently, the Montana State Employment Service sets up a temporary office at Fort Benton each year to handle the influx of harvesters.

Of the five counties served by the Great Falls office of the Employment Service — Chouteau, Cascade, Lewis and Clark, Judith Basin and Teton — only Chouteau is served by a temporary office during harvest, said Otto Peterson, manager.

As harvest in the county neared completion last week, the Employment Service closed its Fort Benton office, which had opened July 31.

The temporary office, which also handles farm laborers, keeps a list of farmers who have used custom cutters in the past, Peterson said.

To find work, many of the custom cutters consult the list, then contact the farmers, he said. Others are employed through orders placed by the farmers with the Employment Service.

Regular custom cutters often have a sort of circuit. They stay busy each year cutting for the same farmers, so much of the work of the Employment Service is with newcomers, he said.

Newcomers or regulars, the custom cutters have adopted a more-or-less standard fee: \$3.50 per acre plus 5 cents for each bushel exceeding 20 bushels per acre, 5 cents per bushel for binning the grain and one-half cent per bushel for grain hauled more than eight miles.

Custom cutters claim that under ideal conditions they can cover more than 100 acres per day with a single, 20-foot wide combine, Peterson said.

Nearly all of the custom cutters come into this area from out of state, Peterson said, as they follow harvest north on a trail as old as the self-propelled combine. It can begin in May as far south as Texas and, for most, it ends in Montana, sometimes as late as October.

During the years, the men at the employment service have detected a pattern in which the grain in this area usually ripens, Peterson said. In a typical year, harvesting will begin in the Virgelle and Clear Lake areas, then move south to Fort Benton, Geraldine, Carter and Great Falls. From there, it moves west and north to Power, Dutton, Conrad and Shelby, where harvesting was just beginning last week.

Fewer This Year

The number of custom cutters operating in Chouteau County dropped significantly this year, Peterson said. Last year, 53 custom cutters with 153 combines signed up at the temporary office. This year, only 43 operators with 130 machines were registered.

Peterson said he had heard speculation that the high cost of entering Montana with harvesting equipment may have influenced custom cutters in deciding to cut short their travels.

Three custom cutters from Kansas questioned here last week all agreed that Montana is by far the most expensive state for them to enter. One of them, who has been harvesting here since 1951, said it cost him \$400.66 to enter Montana with four combines, four trucks (each towing a "header" trailer), two pickups and two trailers.

Upon entering Big Horn County, he said he had to buy license plates for all his vehicles, including a special license plate for the combines, all of which cost him \$152.66. He said all of his equipment was also assessed and he had to pay \$248 in personal property taxes.

This year he began harvesting May 25 in Texas. Since then he said he has also harvested in Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming.

Montana Highest

He said not one of those states taxed his equipment or required him to buy license plates for his vehicles. In each case, he said, the price of admission was in the form of truck

fees. In one state, he said, those were only \$56 and they were never higher than \$80.

A similar story was told by another Kansan who has been harvesting here since 1950. He entered Montana at Powder River County with three trucks, three combines, a pickup truck, a trailer and a bus. He said it cost him \$350.

He too began harvesting in May in Texas. His route was the same as the other Kansan's ex-

cept that he went from Nebraska to South Dakota, rather than Wyoming. He also said all those states charged him only truck fees to enter.

The third Kansan, who has been harvesting here for five years, also said only truck fees had to be paid to enter other states where he had harvested. It cost him considerably more to move to Montana, he said, but he couldn't remember exactly how much.



POLSON LOCAL OFFICE AREA

The new Finley Point Sweet Cherry Association, Inc. plant is located at Finley Point, approximately 11 miles north of Polson. This plant was financed and built by nine growers in the surrounding area. All machines with the exception of the cluster cutter were made by members of the Association. All shipping is done by truck, as no rail siding is available.

The first years' crew consisted of 36 when the plant was at full production. This consisted of 19 on the day shift and 17 at nights. Most of these people are wives and daughters of growers in the Finley Point area. 83 tons of cherries were processed this year, shipping 4 vans to the eastern market.

Production in this plant will be larger next year if crop warrants the expansion.

Cut Bank Pioneer Press



**WHAT
KIND
OF WORK
DO
YOU
SEEK?**

**IS YOURS A PROFESSION . . . A
CRAFT . . . OR A TRADE?**

**Whatever skills you
have, YOUR EMPLOYMENT
SERVICE can help you
find employment.**

**VISIT OR CALL YOUR MONTANA
STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
AT 116 EAST MAIN
Tel. 938-2191**

**This area has a critical shortage of
farm and ranch workers**

**at the present time, due to the late start in fields. If
you are interested in this type of work, register now.**

Dear Sir:

The approaching grain harvest may require you to hire extra help.

If you will be in need of grain harvest workers, you are invited to call on us. Your Farm Placement Representative, Ben Den Herder, will give your request immediate and careful attention.

In addition to the Montana State Employment Service Office at 234 East Main, in Bozeman, outlying areas are served by Volunteer Farm Representatives who assist without pay with farm labor recruitment. Leave your labor orders with them, if this is more convenient to you. We are attaching a list of the Volunteer Farm Representative for your information.



BUTTE AREA FARMING



Sincerely,

Ray Harrison
Ray Harrison, Manager

234 East Main
Bozeman, Montana

End of An Era

North Montana's Last Big Sheep Outfit Sells Out

It was all over. After 75 years in business, north Montana's sole remaining big sheep company, the S Bar B owned by W. A. and R. M. Davies, Chinook (formerly the J. L. Sprinkle Company) sold and delivered the last of its sheep Wednesday, Oct. 18. The sale also wrote a closing chapter in the "rags-to-riches" story of William A. Davies who arrived in Montana with \$25 in his pocket and went to work on a sheep ranch as camp tender more than 50 years ago.

Buyer of the 2,700 Rambouillet cross ewes carrying the Circle Bar and Triangle paint brands on their backs was Spencer Neff, Lewistown sheepman. For the past several years he has bought the lambs from the S Bar B flock and stated he planned to use most of these ewes for stock sheep. The ewes came off the northern summer range in excellent condition. Neff was unable to sort a full carload of "discards," ewes to be sold for slaughter, from the band and well-known East Glacier sheepman, Louie Sitzmann negotiated in the yards for the top or younger ewes of the band.

"I'm sorry to see S Bar B out of business," Neff said, receiving the sheep at the Chinook stockyards. "It's been a pleasure to deal with them."

Several factors have brought about the dispersion of the flock, 2,700 ewes, according

to W. A. Davies, being the crippling labor shortage. For years the S Bar B sheep have prospered under the efficient foremanship of Frank "Fritz" Heimle, but the foreman cannot do all the work himself. The last few years the shortage of herders (a highly skilled occupation) has helped force the big sheep ranches to sell the sheep and turn, as the S Bar B is doing, to cattle.

In addition, the changed consumer demand in food and clothing has substantially reduced the market for lambs and wool. Also as the Montana countryside has become settled and fenced, trailing bands of sheep to and from summer range has become increasingly difficult; trucking adds to the expense of an already beleaguered business and truckers are not anxious to haul sheep.

"And besides," says Davies after half a century in the business, "I don't really like sheep."

Davies was born in north Wales, emigrating to Montana in 1912 where he worked first for The Escalier Sheep Company on the NS ranch, one of the late Senator T. C. Power's ranches out of Cascade. Though he had some experience with sheep on his farm home in Wales it was nothing at all like the management of the big Montana bands of sheep.

In 1915, J. L. Sprinkle hired him as foreman. J. L. Sprinkle

had first come to the Bear Paw Mountains in the 1880's as a boy of 17. Within a few years he and his brothers, Bob and Charlie, had established ranches in the mountains and the Sprinkle name ranked with other big sheep companies as Miller, Kuhr, Putnam and the Silver Bow. At the time of his sudden death in 1923 at age 55, Sprinkle was accounted a millionaire.

The Sprinkle holdings, including 12,000 ewes and 5,000 ewe lambs, were purchased then by a group of local businessmen and the ranch units leased to the Sprinkle foremen. Davies leased the unit known as the "home ranch" near Lloyd, the site of his present home and headquarters of the Davies Ranch Company.

During the 1930's, despite the disaster of the bank closing the day after he deposited his wool check, Davies bought shares of Sprinkle company stock, gaining enough to admit him to the board of directors. In 1943, the company, hit hard by the Depression and discouraged by the livestock market outlook, sold the "home ranch" to him.

Astute management and what Davies calls "pennies from heaven", an oil lease in 1953, enabled him to change over the "home ranch" from sheep to cattle. However, as a major stockholder in the J. L. Sprinkle Company, he also continued in the sheep business.

During the 1940's he formed a partnership with his son, Reginald M. Davies. Gradually through the 1950's, he traced down and purchased more Sprinkle stock, becoming in the early 1960's the controlling stockholder. In 1963 he bought out the J. L. Sprinkle Co., renaming it S Bar B and running both sheep and cattle.

"Oh, this is a historic occasion in its way," he mused, watching as the last of a big outfit trailed down the gravel road past the old sugar factory to the Chinook stockyards to be loaded into stock cars and shipped out the next day. The lead ewe, named Mama, plunged eagerly after S Bar B employee, Red Thomas luring her with a gunny sack half filled with barley cake. The rest of the band followed, so tight-packed on the narrow roadway their moving broad backs dipped and rose like water moved by wind. Their herder, John MacIver and the two sheep dogs, walked behind them, the last trip for them. At the left-hand turn to the stockyards, the old ewes balked for long minutes. Home, as they very well knew from all the other years, lay down the road to the right.

"Oh, don't you hate to see them go?" Davies was asked.

"Well, yes," he said. "And, No!"



MONTANA SHEEPMEN--Selling out the historic S Bar B sheep bring well known Montana sheepmen to the Chinook stockyards the day the ewes were delivered to their buyer. From left, William A. Davies, Chinook, S Bar B owner; Louie Sitzmann, East Glacier; Spencer Neff, Lewistown.

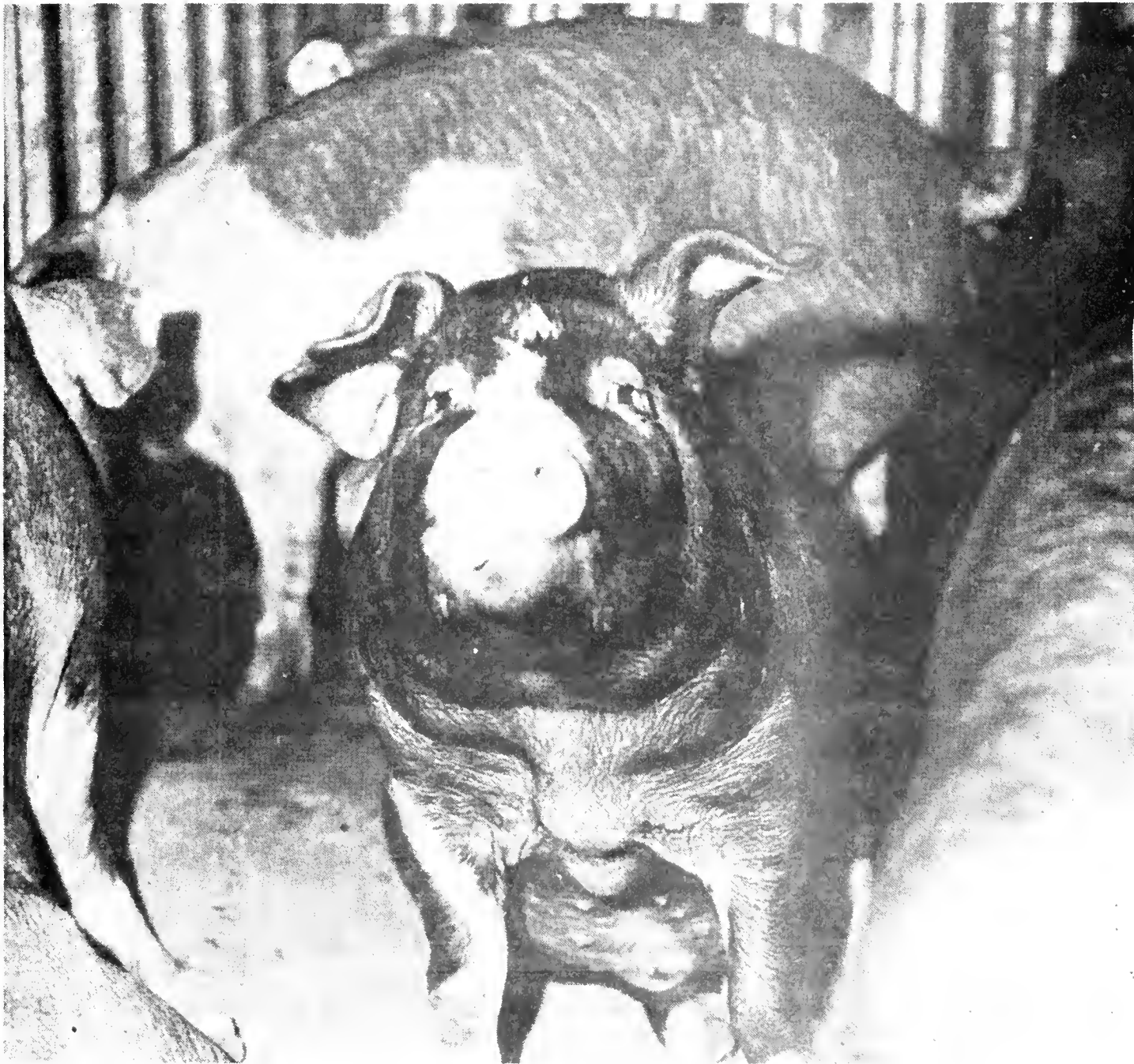


OWNERS AND BUYER--The sale ending three-quarters of a century of sheep business was consummated with delivery of S Bar B sheep at the Chinook stockyards. From left, William A. Davies; buyer Spencer Neff; Reginald M. Davies.

INTER LAKE

Lake, Kalispell, Montana, Monday, April 17, 1967

EIGHT PAGES TEN CENTS



Photogenic Porker

This particular pig perked up when he saw a man with a camera wandering near his abode. Perhaps he thought it was the man on the street reporter and had a few deep-rooted opinions. When the man with the camera turned out to be the

Inter Lake's farm news reporter John Mitcham the porker decided to pose prettily anyway. Scene was the Robert J. Sutton ranch, Rt. 1-A, Kalispell.



BILLINGS LOCAL OFFICE AREA

It grows tall in Montana too
Courtesy - Billings Gazette

Fairfield Times

FAIRFIELD, TETON COUNTY, MONTANA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1967.

NO. 42



ATTENTION!

Mr. Roy Young


Your Montana State Employment Service
Representative from Great Falls
will be at the

CITY HALL IN FAIRFIELD

... on ...

Thursday, July 27 - 1 to 4 p.m.

If you have labor needs or if you are seeking work,
contact him there. Should you desire to contact him
prior to arrival, call 453-0351 in Great Falls.



Dear Sir:

Our records indicate that last year you required the services of custom hay stacking crews to assist in completing your hay harvest.

In order to make a better distribution of hay crews available and to get an estimate on the number needed and time required, we would appreciate your returning the enclosed card.

This is in line with our desire to be of a better service to you and your community.

Sincerely,

Otto Peterson

Otto Peterson, Manager
Great Falls Local Office

Fairfield, Thursday, June 22, 1967.

No Shortage Of Farm Workers In This Area

With beneficial moisture being received in the Fairfield area during these past several weeks, the demands for tractor operators, hay hands and custom stacking crews are expected to increase substantially when weather conditions permit.

At the present time the Montana State Employment Office in Great Falls is experiencing a decided surplus of experienced farm and ranch workers. Otto Peterson, manager of the local office stated that although there is a definite surplus now, as soon as weather conditions permit, this surplus will rapidly diminish. In addition to this supply of experienced hands, the State Employment Office also has a large number of semi-experienced high school and college students available for all types of farm duties.

Farmers and ranchers in the area who feel that extra help will be needed when farming operations again begin would be wise to let their needs be known now by calling the State Employment Office at 453-0351 in Great Falls or by contact with the Volunteer Farm Placement Representative at GTA Elevator in Fairfield.



BILLINGS LOCAL OFFICE AREA

Beautiful Grain Crop



MILES CITY LOCAL OFFICE AREA

Cowboys at Work